GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3050
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2008
REMNANTS OF OLD CITY
Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the remnants of 2500 year old city and civilization have been found in Shishupalgarh near Bhubaneshwar as a result of concerted efforts of University of California, Archaeological Survey of India and University of Pune;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the remnants of the civilization found in Orissa are identical to the Athens city of Greece;

(d) if so, the details of the people / generation established such an highly advanced civilization;

(e) whether the Government has made a strategy to find out some more such historical places in Eastern and Northern India in collaboration with other reputed universities of the world; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) & (b) The recent excavation carried out at the early historic period site of Sisupalgarh by Deccan College,Pune and University of California suggests that its earliest date may go back to 2500 years ago. ASI had already excavated the site in 1948.Sisupalgarh,located about 4 km east of Bhubaneswar,is also identified as Tosali of Asokan (3rd century B.C.) edicts and Kalinganagara of Kharavela's (2nd century B.C.) inscription.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. The two have distinct cultural and geographical traits.

(e) & (f) At present the Archaeological Survey of India has no collaboration to find out more such historical places in Eastern and Northern India.